



605

HF Happenings

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iau.org www.iau-r1.org



May
2014

SARL 5 MHz Activity Weekend

The dates of the 5 MHz weekend have been finalised as 17 and 18 May. The event will be held on the two days from 13:00 to 20:00 CAT (11:00 - 18:00 UTC). This is a South African Radio League only event as radio amateurs have to register with the South African Radio League to be allowed to operate on the two frequencies. Some attractive book prizes and a free 2014/2015 SARL membership will be awarded in a lucky draw of all participants who send in logs.

The activity is devised into two segments, a serious segment for the first 30 minutes of the hour which comprises of listening to and logging the beacon signals on 5 250 kHz using WSPR, PSK31 and CW and during the second half hour a fun component making as many contacts as possible on 5 260 kHz.

Participation requires reception reports on the KART 5 250 kHz beacon which will support WSPR, PSK31 and CW modes. The Propresearch web page features a tutorial on how to get started on WSPR and links to other interesting articles, including an article which appeared on the EngineerIT website and will feature in the May edition.

Full details of the activity weekend and the tutorial on how to get started on WSPR are available on www.sarl.org.za, select the propagation research button on the left side of the home page or send an email to propresdsearch@sarl.org.za and the details will be mailed to you.

Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote Amateur Radio?

May

- 1 - Worker's Day
- 2 - School holiday
- 4 - ZS3 Sprint
- 10 and 11 - AWA AM and SSB Contest
- 11 - Mother's Day
- 15 - May Radio Amateur Examination
- 16 to 18 - Dayton Hamvention
- 24 - SA AMSAT Symposium
- 24 and 25 - CQ WPX CW Contest; Day of the YLs
- 25 - SARL Digital Contest
- 29 - Ascension Day

June

- 1 - Comrades Marathon
- 5 - 80th birthday of my Mother-in-law; World Environmental Day
- 8 - ZS4 Sprint; World Oceans Day; Pentecost
- 15 - Father's Day
- 16 - Youth Day
- 17 - World QRP Day
- 19 to 22 - SARL Top Band QSO Party
- 21 - Radio Technology in Action in Durban
- 27 - Schools close
- 27 to 29 - Ham Radio 2014 in Friedrichshafen, Germany
- 28 - Start of Ramadan

The Day of YLs 2014

in loving memory of our dear friend

Gabri 1K3CXC R.I.P.



HF/VHF CONTEST
24 & 25 May 2014

Infos : <http://www.qrz.com/db/F5ISY>

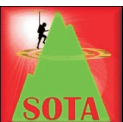
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/115349598506734/>

WRTC 2014 - Participation

A number of awards will be available for stations that work the WRTC teams during the competition. The "WRTC 2014 Chase" will run concurrently with the IARU HF Championship beginning on 12 July at 12:00 UTC. The fifty nine WRTC 2014 stations will have distinctive call signs (TBA) that will be easy to recognise.

Activity Awards. Everyone is encouraged to work the WRTC teams on as many bands and modes as possible. As an added incentive, each QSO with a WRTC team counts 5 points for the ARRL Centennial

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Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp



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QSO Party. Any station that appears in all 59 WRTC team logs will be able to download a certificate from the WRTC 2014 Web site after the contest.

"Assistant Judge" Award. The WRTC 2014 Judging Committee needs as many logs as quickly as possible to assist with the log checking process. Everyone who submits a log within six hours after the end of the contest will be given the title of "Assistant Judge of WRTC 2014". All logs received will be entered into a draw for one of 25 "WRTC 2014 Assistant Judge" hats.

Bronze Awards. Every station that submits a log containing confirmed contacts with the WRTC teams on 30 or more band/modes will be eligible for the Bronze level award. These logs will be entered into a drawing to win one of 10 WRTC 2014 bronze medals or one of 50 WRTC 2014 mouse pads.

Silver Awards. A Silver medal will be awarded to the first 5 stations from each continent and W1 that has confirmed contacts with all 59 teams regardless of mode. Any other stations that work all 59 teams will be entered into a drawing to win one of 25 WRTC 2014 caps.

Gold Awards. Gold medals recognize the highest level of achievement - contacting the WRTC teams on the most band/modes. With 59 teams, 5 bands and 2 modes, there are 590 possible band/modes available. Gold medals will be awarded to the top 5 band/mode leaders in each continent and W1. In the event of a tie, the order will be determined by earliest completion time.

Eligibility. To earn any of the Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards, participants will be required to submit their contest log within six hours after the end of the contest (by 18:00 UTC on 13 July). Logs in Cabrillo format meeting the requirements of the IARU HF Championship must be submitted by email to iaruhf@arrl.org and must be acknowledged by the robot. Entrants are encouraged to submit their log immediately after the contest.

Complete rules for the WRTC 2014 activity award program are available at <http://www.wrtc2014.org/competition/participation-awards/>. All contacts with WRTC 2014 stations will be confirmed by QSL card via the bureau for DX stations and direct to US stations. All contacts will also be confirmed through LoTW.

To help determine the best times to work the WRTC teams, Stu Phillips, K6TU, has made his propagation prediction service available for WRTC 2014 at <https://k6tu.net/?q=node/add/dx-prediction-wrtc>

Word to the Wise

Recruit - not the noun, the verb! Every contesteer should keep their recruitment detectors tuned up to high sensitivity, waiting for an opportunity to show an acquaintance or visitor how much fun ham radio can be, especially our competitive side. Take a portable station to the park or sports complex and operate in one of the numerous contests active every weekend. Be sure to take plenty of hand-outs since you'll have a steady stream of folks stopping by to see what's going on. Then you change the verb into the noun!

Operating Tip

Raise your grid awareness and memorize not only your 4-character grid square http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maidenhead_Locator_System but all the way to the 6-character locator that pins down your exact location. The 6-character locator is precise enough to allow microwave and other narrow-lobe antennas to be aimed right at you. At microwave frequencies, accurate antenna aiming often makes the difference between making a QSO and hearing only noise.

We're Goin' to Dayton

Dayton has the same emotional attraction to hams as Graceland does to Elvis Presley fans. Thus, when Dr Beldar's muse whispered in his ear, "We're goin' to Dayton!" there was nothing else to do but get busy.

Have fun with the doctor's re-tuning of "Graceland" by Paul Simon http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graceland_album - there are plenty of online versions of the original to hum along with. Hope to see all of you "Free Hams in Dayton" being unfettered and alive in a couple of weeks! 73, Ward NØAX

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*(Continued from page 2)***Dayton**

Misty Ohio river was shining
 Like a National receiver
 I am a licensed believer
 Up the highway
 From our cradles of amateur radio
 I'm going to Dayton
 Dayton

Past Nashville and Cincinnati
 I'm going to Dayton
 Poor boys and old hams with stories
 And we are going to Dayton
 My traveling companion ninety years old
 He was the Elmer for my first license
 But I've reason to believe
 Our signals will be received
 In Dayton

She came back to another call
 As if I couldn't hear that
 As if I didn't know my own call
 As if I'd never noticed
 The way she rushed my call in the pileup
 And she said fading fast
 It's like a burned up burned out part
 Everybody hears it blow apart
 Everybody hears the fuse blow

I'm going to Dayton
 Southwest Ohio

I'm going to Dayton
 Poor boys and old hams with stories
 And we are going to Dayton
 And my traveling companions
 Have amps with empty sockets
 I'm looking for tubes and chimneys
 But I've reason to believe
 Our signals will be received
 In Dayton

There is a ham from east Missouri
 We call him Murphy in human form
 And sometimes when he's operating
 And creating turmoil I say
 Oh, so this is what it means
 It means we're going back to Dayton
 And I see in the dark
 The glowing burned up burned out part
 Everybody hears it blow apart
 Everybody hears the fuse blow

In Dayton in Dayton
 I'm going to Dayton
 For reasons I cannot explain
 The flea market I need to see
 Dayton
 And I may be unwise to spend
 Every dime, wallet empty
 Or maybe hit the lottery now
 Maybe I've a reason to believe
 Our signals will be received
 In Dayton



National Hamnet Exercise with a Competitive Feel

Hamnet Western Cape will be hosting a national Hamnet exercise this winter. As before, there is a competitive feel to the exercise, but primarily it is an exercise and not a contest. Our aims are to test our readiness for both fixed stations and field deployments, practice our emcomm voice procedures and practice accurate message passing.

The exercise will run for 24 hours from 12:00 CAT Saturday 7 June to 12:00 CAT Sunday 8 June.

Teams of between one and four members may enter and must provide a list of their members, a tactical name for their team for example a typically deployment location name and the co-ordinates they will be based at, to the exercise co-ordinator in advance of the exercise. The leader of the team and at least half the team members must be Hamnet members. Only teams that have entered and have been approved may participate in the exercise. Closing date to register your team is 30 April 2014 and your list of team members must be finalised two weeks before the exercise.

If you participated last year, you are encouraged to pick a different location to add some variety and new challenges. Teams entering earlier are more likely to get their chosen locations. Teams entering later, which are too close to other teams already entered, will be asked to move further away. The exercise co-

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ordinators, Ashley, ZS1ASH, and Grant, ZS1GS, will have the final say on whether your location is approved for the exercise.

The rules and guidelines will be distributed in due course. Information about the other participating teams and the details of messages to be passed between teams will be sent out two to three days before the exercise.

Team entries must be sent to Ashley, ZS1ASH before 9 May 2014. The e-mails addresses are Ashley.Warelane@capetown.gov.za or Grant, ZS1GS grant@sao.ac.za.

Younger radio amateurs disappearing

The Radio Society of Great Britain has released the figure for the number of members aged under 25.

Given that RSGB membership is completely free for UK radio amateurs aged 25 and under in full time education, you would expect every youngster interested in the hobby to be a member of the Society, so it provides a good proxy for the national figure for amateurs in that age group.

The figure released may come as a shock to some, just 295 are aged under 25. Take almost any radio club and you will find many members who have been licenced for 40, 50 or 60 years, having first taken up the hobby in their teens or early twenties.

The figure suggests we are sitting on a demographic time-bomb which could see amateur radio all but wiped out in 20 years time.

All is not doom and gloom, there are some glimmers of light. This year the RSGB has decided to take part for the first time in the annual IARU Region 1 Youngsters On The Air event and the Society also intends to run a separate event for youngsters called YOTA UK in Wolverhampton on 19 and 20 July.

Importantly many amateurs at grassroots level are now becoming involved in attracting younger-blood into the hobby, both Camb-Hams and Essex Hams have been doing a great job in promoting amateur radio to a new generation.

African DX

Z8, South Sudan. Massimo, Z81B, and Diya, Z81D, hope to lift their self-imposed radio silence on 10 May, depending on the local security situation. QSL Z81B via IZ0GEA, but not for WSPR; QSL Z81D via OM3JW, and eQSL.



7Q, Malawi. Just a reminder that Dr. Remco, PA3FYM, will be active as 7QNL (yes, that is the call sign) from Malawi for 3 weeks in May and June. Remco informs OPDX that the activity will be from around 18 May until 10 June. He will likely be in Malawi during the Presidential Elections, and plans to participate in the CQ WPX CW Contest (24 and 25 May) with his special call sign as a Single-Op entry. His planned activity will be on 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 3 517, 7 017, 10 107, 14 017, 18 077, 21 017, 24 897 and 28 017 kHz

SSB - 3 787, 7 087/7 187, 14 187, 18 137, 21 287, 24 947 and 28 487 kHz

RTTY - 3 587, 7 047, 10 137, 14 087, 18 107, 21 087, 24 917 and 28 087 kHz

6 m - 50 110/CW and 50 110/SSB

More details on the Web page below.

Four beverages are foreseen to try to optimize reception on the lower bands. Remco's efforts/DXpedition will include charity for a local project in the Blantyre area. His QSL Manager is PA1AW. An OQRS will be available from ClubLog for direct and Bureau QSLs. A new Web page is currently set up at <http://www.malawihf.org>

S0, Western Sahara. The "URS Sahrawi Amateur Radio Union" radio station, S01WS, was heard this past week on 40 and 60 metres SSB. Also, S01A was heard on 15 and 10 metres PSK earlier in the week. It is suggested to watch the following URLs for updates and news - <https://twitter.com/SaharaDxTeam> and <http://saharadx.jimdo.com>

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TY, Benin. Patrice "Pat", LA0HF, is now active as TY2BP from Ouidah. He informs OPDX, "I am here for an indefinite time, but I may have to go back to Norway for a while, at any time." Activity will be on 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 metres SSB. QSL via Flavio, IK2IQD.

African Islands

EA8, Canary Islands. The URE section of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (EA8URL) announces the following activities during the coming months:

17 and 18 May, EF8U - His Majesty the King of Spain CW Contest
 28 and 29 May, EF8U - His Majesty the King of Spain SSB Contest
 19 and 20 July, EF8U - National Competition CNCW Telegraph
 16 and 17 August, AO8LH - International Lighthouse Weekend
 30 August to 14 September, AO8BWC - World Basketball Championship
 27 and 29 September, EF8U - CQ WW RTTY Contest

<http://ea8url.blogspot.de/>



EA8, Canary Islands. Juan, EA8RM, will operate as EF8U from the Las Palmas Contest station on Gran Canaria Island (AF-004) during the CQ WW WPX CW Contest (24 and 25 May) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via LoTW or direct to EA8URE.

EA8, Fuerteventura Island, AF-004. Mike, DG5LAC, will be active as EA8/DG5LAC from Fuerteventura Island (DIE S-006, WLOTA 0883, WWFF EAFF-191) between 11 and 23 May. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB with 100 watts. QSL via DG5LAC, direct or by the Bureau. The log will be uploaded to LoTW, eQSL and WWFF.

IT9, Pantelleria Island, AF-018. Simone, IV3NVN, will be active with the special call sign IY9A from Pantelleria Island in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest (24 and 25 May) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (40 m) entry. The special call sign is to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the birth of Guglielmo Marconi. Outside of the contest he will be active as IH9/IV3NVN. QSL via IK2ILH, direct, by the bureau or LoTW.

DXCC News

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager reports that the following operation is approved for DXCC credit - VU4K, Andaman and Nicobar Island, 2014 Operation.
 DXCC Web Site: www.arrl.org/dxcc; DXCC Blog: <http://www.arrl.org/awards-blog>; Twitter: [arrl_dxcc](https://twitter.com/arrl_dxcc)

Thank you Tjerk, ZS6P

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 12 to 19 May 2014

NCCC RTTY Sprint
 02:00 - 02:30 UTC 16 May
 Mode: RTTY
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)

E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html>

Exchange: (see rules)
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 18 May 2014

NCCC Sprint
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 16 May
 Mode: (see rules)

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Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 18 May 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

Slobozhansky Sprint Contest

18:00 - 19:59 UTC 16 May (SSB) and 20:00 - 21:59 UTC 16 May (CW)

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80 m

Classes: Single-Op Multi-Band - CW, SSB or both; Single-Op Single-Band; Multi-Single

Exchange: Serial no and Administrative District - UR-DA, RDA, province or state

Work stations: Once per band per 15-minute period (see rules)

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multippliers: Each administrative district once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 June 2014

E-mail logs to: ut0lwr@ukr.net

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://tdr.at.ua/index/rules2014/0-13>

UN DX Contest

21:00 UTC 16 May to 21:00 UTC 17 May

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed - low or high; Single Op High Bands; Single Op Low Bands; Multi-Op Single Transmitter; SWL

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: Kazakhstan: RS(T) and District Code; non-Kazakhstan: RS(T) and QSO no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with same country; 3 points per QSO with different country, same continent; 5 points per QSO with different continent; non-Kazakhstan: 10 points per QSO with Kazakhstan station

Multippliers: Each KDA district once per band; Each DXCC country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 18 June 2014

E-mail logs to: UNDXC2014@MAIL.RU

Mail logs to: UN DX Contest, PO Box 88, 010000 Astana, Kazakhstan

Find rules at:

http://kfrr.kz/?id_1=815&id_2=825&id_3=827

Portuguese Navy Day Digital Contest

08:00 - 23:59 UTC 17 May

Mode: Digital

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op

Exchange: NRA Club: Member no and CQ Zone; non-member: QSO no and CQ Zone

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: See rules

Multippliers: Each country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 6 June 2014

E-mail logs to: nra@nra.pt

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nra.pt/portuguese-navy-day-contest---2014.html>

EU PSK DX Contest

12:00 UTC 17 May to 12:00 UTC 18 May

Mode: BPSK63

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - 24 h or 12 h - high or low; Single Op Low Bands - high or low; Single Op High Bands - high or low; Single Op Single Band - high or low; Multi-Single - YM or OM; Multi-Multi - YM or OM

Max power: HP: 100 watts; LP: 10 watts

Exchange: EU: RST and EU area code; non-EU: RST and QSO no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with different country, same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; non-EU Stations: 5 points per QSO with EU

Multippliers: Each DXCC country once per band; Each EU area code once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23 May 2014

Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en

Mail logs to: (none)

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Find rules at: <http://www.eupsk.com/eupskdx/eupskdxrules.pdf>

Aegean RTTY Contest

12:00 UTC 17 May to 12:00 UTC 18 May

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op

Exchange: RST and QSO no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 15 June 2014

E-mail logs to: sv8cyr@gmail.com

Mail logs to: Aegean RTTY Contest, PO Box 04, 83100 Samos Hellas, Greece

Find rules at: <http://www.aegeandxgroup.gr/AEGEAN-RTTY-CONTEST-RULES.php>

His Majesty the King of Spain CW Contest

12:00 UTC 17 May to 12:00 UTC 18 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: EA: RST and province; non-EA: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each EA province once per band; Each EADX100 entity once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 2 June 2014

E-mail logs to: smreycw@ure.es

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://concursos.ure.es/en/s-m-el-rey-de-espana-cw/bases/>

Feld Hell Sprint

1600Z-1800Z 17 May and 2000Z-2200Z 17 May

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: May 24, 2014

Upload log at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/hamvention-sprint>

Baltic Contest

21:00 UTC 17 May to 02:00 UTC 18 May

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op CW/SSB; Single Op 2 Hrs CW/SSB; Single Op CW; Single Op SSB; Multi-Single; SWL

Exchange: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per mode

QSO Points: ES/YL/LY Stations: 1 point per QSO with EU; ES/YL/LY Stations: 2 points per QSO with non-EU; EU Stations: 10 points per QSO with ES/YL/LY; EU Stations: 1 point per QSO with non-EU; non-EU Stations: 20 points per QSO with ES/YL/LY; non-EU Stations: 1 point per QSO with non-ES/YL/LY

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 10 June 2014

E-mail logs to: lrsf@lrsf.lt

Mail logs to: Baltic Contest, PO Box 210, LT-44003 Kaunas, Lithuania

Find rules at: http://www.lrsf.lt/bcontest/english/rules_html.htm

UA2 QSO Party

13:00 - 16:59 UTC 18 May

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed; Multi-Single; Junior Multi-Single; SWL

Exchange: UA2: RS(T) and RDA ID; non-UA2: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-UA2 station; 5 points per QSO with UA2 station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 18 June 2014

E-mail logs to: ua2ff@qrz.ru

Mail logs to: Dmitry Gorshkov, PO Box 73, Kaliningrad 236000, Russia

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Find rules at: <http://www.grz.ru/contest/detail/382.html>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 19 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once;

Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 25 May 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/>

Alpha and TEN-TEC to Merge

Two major American Amateur Radio manufacturers are joining forces. Alpha Amplifiers and TEN-TEC <http://www.tentec.com/> have announced that they will merge under the RF Concepts brand [http://](http://www.rfconcepts.com/)



www.rfconcepts.com/. The announcement came 9 May in Longmont, Colorado, where RF Concepts and Alpha are headquartered. TEN-TEC, the older of the two concerns, is located in Sevierville, Tennessee. The merger creates a multi-million-dollar company with a product line that extends from QRP transceivers to legal-limit amplifiers. RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers has been in business since the early 1970s and has produced more than 13 000 amps. TEN-TEC, founded in 1968 as a maker of transceivers for the QRP community, has expanded its line over the years to include a range of transceivers - from basic to top-tier - receivers, tuners, amplifiers, and accessories. While there is a small overlap in the companies' respective product lines, RF Concepts Chairman Michael Seedman, AA6DY, called the union "the perfect combination of Amateur Radio brands."

"For more than 40 years, Alpha Amplifiers and TEN-TEC have shared a reputation in the Amateur Radio market for offering exceptionally well-engineered, American-made products backed by extraordinary customer service," said Seedman. "Alpha Amplifiers is known for 'key-down performance,' and TEN-TEC is known for pushing the boundaries of transceiver performance and capabilities." Such a merger "makes perfect sense," he added, pointing out that the merger will more than double the size of RF Concepts, allowing it "to invest more capital in innovative engineering and customer-driven product development."

Plans call for RF Concepts to share operations between its Colorado and Tennessee locations, and the company is looking for a new operations facility in the Sevierville area that would house manufacturing as well as some engineering resources as well as technical and customer support services. TEN-TEC had announced that it would not be holding its annual hamfest in Tennessee this year, due to plans to relocate its headquarters this fall. TEN-TEC announced "a massive moving sale" during September. The Colorado facility will house engineering resources, technical and customer support services, and much of the front-office operation.

The announcement of the merger came a week before Dayton Hamvention® <http://www.hamvention.org/>, where both Alpha and TEN-TEC will continue to operate separate booths. Alpha will be demonstrating its not-yet-released DreamTuner 4040 Automatic Antenna Tuner, while TEN-TEC will unveil the Patriot, an open-source, Arduino-based SSB transceiver.

The two companies are privately held, and terms of the merger were not disclosed. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/alpha-and-ten-tec-to-merge-under-rf-concepts-banner>

World Telecommunications and Information Society Day is 17 May

Saturday 17 May is World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), sponsored by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

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17 May marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union in 1865. World Information Society Day was established in 2005, and the following year it was decided to celebrate both events on the same day.

Several special event stations are expected to be on the air. These include C37ITU from Andorra, and A60ITU, by members of the Emirates Amateur Radio Society (EARS). Radio amateurs in Australia may use the special prefix AX for World Telecommunications and Information Society Day.



Next Weeks Contests

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC

21 May and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 22 May

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 22 May

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 22 May

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 23 May

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW, 00:00 UTC 24 May to 23:59 UTC 25 May

The Day of YLs, 06:00 UTC 24 May - 18:00 UTC 25 May

SARL Digital Contest, 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 25 May

QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint, 20:00 local - 23:59 local 25 May

Radio Amateurs in Vietnam Get New Frequencies: According to the Vietnamese Amateur Radio Club, Amateur Radio operators there now can operate between 1 800 to 2 000 kHz, 3 500 to 3 900 kHz, 7 100 and 7 200 kHz (in addition to 7 000 to 7 100 kHz) and 10 100 to 10 150 kHz. Also, a new band has been allocated at 472 to 479 kHz.

Special Event Marks Papal Visit to Israel: To celebrate Pope Francis's visit to Israel, special event stations 4X266POPE (on 40 to 6 metres) and 4Z266POPE (on all bands) will be active from 20 to 27 May, CW, SSB, and digital modes. QSL via 4Z1TL.

Some Macedonian radio amateurs get 60 Metre Authorization: Members of the Radio Society of Macedonia (RSM) were allowed to begin operating on 60 metres starting on 1 May. The Society requested permission for a group of 16 dedicated and experienced radio amateurs to operate at 5 MHz, although authorities granted operating to the RSM as an organization, rather than to individuals.

History this Week, week starting 12 May 14

1718 A "Defence" rapid-fire gun was patented by a London lawyer, James Puckle

1787 Glass was engraved for the first time in Toulouse, France

1890 Nikola Tesla was issued a patent for an electric generator (No. 428,057)

1908 Wireless Radio Broadcasting is patented by Nathan B Stubblefield

1913 First 4 engine aircraft built & flown (Igor Sikorsky-Russia)

1943 During WW II, "bouncing bombs" invented by Dr Barnes Wallis was dropped on the Mohne and Eder dams in the Ruhr

1955 The highly classified U.S. patent (No. 2,708,656) for the first atomic pile was finally issued, 11 years after it had been filed

1963 A laser light beam link first carried the TV signal during a network broadcast

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslite, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News